

served as a medic. An attitude of service is certainly evident in every aspect of the life of the congregation.

Congratulations to St. John Lutheran Church on this very special day in the history of the congregation. May God continue to bless its ministry with His presence and His love.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE TIF-
FIN COUNCIL 608 OF THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ON
THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, on October 6, 2001 the Tiffin Knights of Columbus Council 608 will celebrate their 100th anniversary. For the past 100 years, this fraternal organization has worked to promote charity for those who are less fortunate, to promote unity and brotherhood among Catholic men, and to promote patriotism in our country.

More than 120 years ago, a small group of men met in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. These men formed a fraternal society that would one day become one of the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organizations. Their purpose was to bring men together under the banner of fraternity and philanthropy. These men bound themselves together by the ideals of Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of the Americas, the one whose hand brought Catholicism to America.

For the last 100 years, the Tiffin Council has carried on the principles of their founding fathers. Their services to the Tiffin community are profound. The Tiffin Council provides religious education and activities for students and those with mental and physical disabilities. Their efforts at the Ecumenical Sharing Kitchen ensure that those who are less fortunate have a hot meal. Through their charitable efforts, the Tiffin Council raises funds for the Firefighters' Projects for Children, St. Rita School for the Deaf, and Catholic Guild for the Blind.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all the members of the 107th Congress to join me in applauding the efforts of the Tiffin Knights of Columbus Council 608. Their selfless acts of volunteerism and brotherhood over the past century are truly an example for future generations.

COLONEL JAMES A. McMURRY
RETIRES AS COMMANDER

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, on October 26, 2001, Colonel James A. McMurry will retire as Commander of Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, Camp Douglas, Wisconsin. After a distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force as an instructor pilot, Colonel McMurry joined the Wisconsin Air National Guard where he served as an instructor pilot, flight examiner and squadron standardization officer with

the 128th Tactical Fighter Wing. During that time, he participated in three overseas deployments. In 1989 he was assigned to lead the installation of a \$31 million Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation system at Volk Field. He became Commander in November, 1993. In 1997, he was assigned the additional duty of Air National Guard liaison to the Air Force Command and Control Battle Lab.

Colonel McMurry is a command pilot with over 3800 hours in a variety of aircraft. His awards and commendations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Outstanding Unit Award and the Organizational Excellence Award.

Colonel McMurry represents the very best in leadership in the Wisconsin National Guard. He is considered one of the most accomplished and respected senior officers in the Air National Guard. He has led in the area of new technologies to train the men and women of the future Total Force.

In addition to his distinguished military career, Colonel McMurry has served in a number of community leadership roles including the American Legion, Lions Club, County Wisconsin Workers Steering Committee and the Greater Mauston Wisconsin Development Corporation.

Colonel McMurry resides in Mauston with his wife, Sue, and their three children, April, Sara and Mike.

I have considered it an honor and a privilege to have worked with Colonel McMurry since his arrival at Volk Field, which is located within the 6th Congressional District that I represent. It is fitting that he receives full recognition and praise for the service he has rendered to his community, his state and his nation along with the thanks and best wishes of his fellow citizens in Wisconsin.

ON INTRODUCTION OF FIRST RE-
SPONDERS HOMELAND DEFENSE
LAW

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce legislation that will help our local law enforcement agencies and public safety personnel prepare for and respond to terrorist attacks.

As the horrific attacks upon our Nation on September 11th have proven, our local police, fire, and rescue personnel are our first line of response to acts of terrorism. While our federal law enforcement officers have a very important role to play in our homeland defense, the role of their state and local counterparts is still more critical. They are the first on the scene, the first to assess the damages and circumstances, the first to attend to victims.

But, they are not now well equipped or prepared for dealing with these situations. They must deal on a day-to-day basis with the more mundane tasks of keeping the peace on the streets and bringing common criminals to justice. They need access to the knowledge and equipment that our federal law enforcement and military personnel freely have, but now lie outside their routine training.

As our Nation sought to prosecute the long, hard war on drugs, we came to similarly realize the value of fully integrating beat cops, state troopers, and other law enforcement officials into the fight. But those officers needed access to the equipment and the knowledge of our military personnel in order to fully realize their capabilities. As a result, there are two programs through which state and local agencies fighting drugs can acquire defense personnel property to conduct counter-drug operations.

One of those two programs, found at 10 U.S.C. 2576a, was already amended by Congress to allow these same resources to be used for counter-terrorism. Through that program, local law enforcement can get free access personnel property no longer needed by the Department of Defense. It is time to bring the second program into the Twenty-First Century as well, and that is what my bill does.

This second program, found at 10 U.S.C. 381, simply provides state and local enforcement officers access to the catalog of equipment and knowledge currently available to the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense, and the General Services Administration.

No new funds are needed to expand this program. The local agencies pay for the items they purchase with their own dollars. But, by purchasing these items through this program, the communities may be able to leverage the buying power of the federal government and pay lower prices.

There is no cost to making this change in law, but there is a great cost to not providing our local public safety workers with the tools they need to respond to future potential terrorist attacks. As we begin to prepare our Nation to fight what could be a long, hard war against terrorism, we must arm our front-line soldiers—the police, fire, and rescue personnel of our local communities. The First Responders Homeland Defense Act is one right step in that direction.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHSIDE
FALL FESTIVAL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the patrons and organizers of the Southside Fall Festival for their work and sacrifice in honor of all the people who both survived and who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001 their families and their friends.

These terrorist attacks mark a solemn moment in America's history. American men and women, civilians and soldiers, firefighters and police, mothers and fathers, were slain for a cause so terrible, so heinous, and so despicable that we find it unimaginable and indescribable. United, Americans seek to find meaning and hope in a seemingly hopeless and meaningless act. In the days since these terrible terrorist attacks, America has been shoulder-to-shoulder in a struggle to meet the challenges of a world that is a little less safe, a little scarier, and far less predictable. The efforts of the patrons and organizers of the Southside Fall Festival signify the commitment